



Notice of Geothermal Grant and Loan (GRDA) Program Pre-Solicitation Staff Workshops

California Energy Commission staff will conduct three (3) public workshops to go over recent changes to the Geothermal Grant and Loan (GRDA) Program regulations, changes in the program application process, California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) compliance information requirements for applications, and proposed project planning. The workshops will be held as follows:

Thursday, April 3, 2014

9:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon

RIVERSIDE CALIFORNIA TOWER

Suite 200, Highgrove Room

3737 Main Street

Riverside, California 92501

Monday, April 7, 2014

4:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

REDDING LIBRARY COMMUNITY ROOM

1100 Parkview Avenue

Redding, California 96001

Thursday, April 17, 2014*

9:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

First Floor, Hearing Room A

1516 Ninth Street

Sacramento, California 95814

(Wheelchair Accessible)

***Sacramento workshop only: Remote access will be available by computer or phone via WebExTM. (Instructions below)**

Purpose

These workshops will provide an opportunity for interested parties around the state to learn more about the amended Geothermal Grant and Loan Program regulations and changes in the program application process, in advance of the next program solicitation planned for May 2014. Starting this year, the program will use a single application process, instead of the two-step, pre-application and final application process formerly used. Eligible applicants will need to evaluate their approach to project planning and application development to accommodate the single application process and ensure compliance with the local agency approval and CEQA documentation requirements. During the workshops, Energy Commission staff will go over the changes to the program regulations and funding application process, discuss project development and application content considerations, and respond to any questions from workshop attendees.

Background

The Energy Commission's Geothermal Grant and Loan Program was created in 1980 by Assembly Bill 1905 (Bosco, Statutes of 1980, Chapter 139) and has been in operation since 1981. The program provides funding to eligible local jurisdictions and private entities for projects and activities that promote development of California's vast geothermal energy resources, mitigate any adverse impacts caused by geothermal development, or help local jurisdictions offset the costs of providing public services necessitated by geothermal development.

The program is often called the GRDA Program after its Geothermal Resources Development Account funding source. This funding comes from payments made to the State by the federal government for a portion of the royalty and lease revenues generated by geothermal development on federal lands in California. Typically, the Energy Commission makes funding awards roughly every two to three years through a competitive project solicitation, called a Program Opportunity Notice (PON).

California law [Public Resources Code (PRC), section 3800 et seq.] sets forth the operational parameters for the GRDA Program, including who is eligible for funding and what types of activities can be funded. Regulations governing the program application and project selection process were initially established in 1985 under Title 20 of the California Code of Regulations, sections 1660 through 1665 and Appendix A. The Energy Commission recently amended the program regulations to bring them up to date and to also streamline the two-step application process into a single application process. The amendments also clarify two statutory requirements by identifying what documentation the Energy Commission will accept for local agency approval of grants or loans awarded to private entities, and by addressing the information needed by the Energy Commission to determine that a decision to approve funding for a project is in compliance with CEQA.

For more information on the GRDA Program, along with a link to the amended GRDA Program regulations, please go to <http://www.energy.ca.gov/geothermal/grda.html>.

Workshop Contact

If you have any questions about these workshops or the GRDA Program, please contact Ms. Cheryl Closson, either by e-mail at Cheryl.Closson@energy.ca.gov, or by telephone at (916) 651-0315.

Public Adviser and Other Commission Contacts

The Energy Commission's Public Adviser's Office is available to provide the public with assistance in participating in Energy Commission proceedings. If you want information on how to participate in any of the workshops, please contact Alana Mathews, Public Adviser, at PublicAdviser@energy.ca.gov or (916) 654-4489 (toll free at (800) 822-6228).

If you have a disability and require assistance to participate, please contact Lou Quiroz at lquiroz@energy.ca.gov or (916) 654-5146 at least five days in advance.

Media inquiries should be sent to the Media and Public Communications Office at mediaoffice@energy.ca.gov or (916) 654-4989.

Remote Attendance (Sacramento Workshop Only)

You may participate in the Sacramento workshop through WebEx, the Energy Commission's online meeting service. Presentations will appear on your computer screen, and you may listen to audio via your computer or telephone. Please be aware that the meeting may be recorded.

To join a meeting:

VIA COMPUTER: Go to <https://energy.webex.com> and enter the unique meeting number: 929 158 820. When prompted, enter your name and the following meeting password: **meeting@930**

The "Join Conference" menu will offer you a choice of audio connections:

1. To call into the meeting: Select "I will call in" and follow the on-screen directions.
2. International Attendees: Click on the "Global call-in number" link.
3. To have WebEx call you: Enter your phone number and click "Call Me."
4. To listen over the computer: If you have a broadband connection, and a headset or a computer microphone and speakers, you may use VoIP (Internet audio) by going to the Audio menu, clicking on "Use Computer Headset," then "Call Using Computer."

VIA TELEPHONE ONLY (no visual presentation): Call 1-866-469-3239 (toll-free in the U.S. and Canada). When prompted, enter the unique meeting number: 929 158 820. International callers may select their number from <https://energy.webex.com/energy/globalcallin.php>

VIA MOBILE ACCESS: Access to WebEx meetings is now available from your mobile device. To download an app, go to www.webex.com/overview/mobile-meetings.html.

If you have difficulty joining the meeting, please call the WebEx Technical Support number at 1-866-229-3239.